WEST POINT CENTRAL CATHOLIC

COURSE SYLLABUS

Religion III, Fall 2011

Rev. Patrick A. McLaughlin, M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.

1. Course Information

Course Status: Required Course Title: Religion III

Religion III, Required 11  
Creed/Prayer and Spirituality - First Semester  
Students will grow in their spiritual relationship with God through learning about prayer and participating in prayer experiences. Students will investigate and apply the teachings of the Church revealed in the Creed. Each statement will be explored in relation to historical foundations and applied to living a Catholic Christian life.

Approved Instructional Materials

*The Prayer Primer*; Distributed Materials; Various Church Documents; Designated Websites.

# General Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Meet all course objectives set by the Archdiocese of Omaha and West Point Central Catholic.
2. Show mastery of the standards set by the Archdiocese of Omaha for the high school curriculum in the areas of creed and prayer.
3. Complete the assessments required by the Archdiocese of Omaha.
4. Articulate in a clear and unambiguous the articles of faith found in the Symbols of the Church, and articulate the importance of the early ecumenical councils in the development of doctrine.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of and proficiency with a variety of forms of prayer.
6. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge on the lives of the saints.
7. Allow each student to understand that the Roman Catholic Church teaches with the authority of Jesus Christ Himself.
8. Allow each student to know what is necessary for his/her good and salvation, with a strong emphasis in the sacramental life and the life of prayer.
9. Demonstrate mastery on a variety of topics of Catholic magisterial teaching, as well as be able to articulate Catholic teaching to uncatechized members of the Catholic Church and non-Catholics.

1. Course Requirements and Expectations

Assignments, quizzes, projects/reports, exams, and participation will be the basis for the grade. Each exam is to be taken at the scheduled time. In the event of an excused absence on the day of an exam, arrangements must be made with the instructor to complete an alternate version of the exam at the earliest opportunity. There will be an exam at the end of each unit and a final exam that will be **comprehensive**.

Attendance

In this course, new concepts will build on concepts already taught. When a student misses a class, the student may miss material that he/she needs to understand for a future topic. Absences due to excused school activities will require the work to be completed in advance. Excused absences (see the student handbook) must have proper documentation, must have the work made up at the earliest possible time, and must have the instructor notified at the earliest possible opportunity (notify me by writing in a note).

All West Point Central Catholic policies regarding student absences will be followed with regards to students who never show up for class and those with excessive absences.

Expectation of Conduct

Every student is expected to be respectful of other students and the instructor. Every student must bring her/his notebook and supplemental materials to every class session. Every student is expected to fully participate in all classroom activities. Students failing to meet the above expectation of conduct will be disciplined according to the Student Handbook in addition to other disciplinary measures.

1. Methods of Learning

The activities, any demonstrations, small group activities, and visuals used in lecture are designed to help the student understand and apply the concepts of the Roman Catholic faith.

1. Method of Evaluation

The overall grade for the course will be based on the performance of the student on examinations (approximately 75-100 points each), quizzes (approximately 10-20 points each), assigned exercises (varies with length), reports (varies with length), projects (varies with depth), the final exam (worth approximately two exams if given), Scripture quizzes on the Sunday and School Mass readings (varies), and **participation in class and class conduct** (approximately 8-10 points per week). **Disruptive and uncharitable behavior will be penalized with the deduction of points per incident, even if it exceeds the amount possibly earned for that week of conduct. This will be in addition to the established conduct reports.**

Participation is more than simple physical presence in class and avoiding disruption. Participation is based on a willingness to join class discussions, ask intelligent questions (always showing respect for the Church and her Lord, Jesus Christ), and attempt to answer questions when called in class.

Every student is **required** to turn in each and every assignment unless excused by the instructor. Failure to have all assignments will result in failing junior religion.

Students will be penalized for late work, up to 20% of the assignment per day. Staying after school to complete assignments may be done at the discretion of the instructor.

**Plagiarism** and cheating on reports for class was problematic in the past. Students caught cheating will have their grade severely penalized, even to the point of **failing the class for the quarter**. Do yourself a favor and do your own work. It is not worth it to ask someone to borrow their homework when it could cost you passing the class.

A percentage of the students actually earned points out of the total number of possible points will be calculated. The instructor reserves the right to scale individual assignments, quizzes, activities, or exams. The grade range will be as in the West Point Central Catholic Student Handbook:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Percentage | Letter Grade | Percentage | Letter Grade | Percentage |
| A+ | 99 to 100 | A | 95 to 98 | A- | 93 to 94 |
| B+ | 91 to 92 | B | 88 to 90 | B- | 86 to 87 |
| C+ | 84 to 85 | C | 80 to 83 | C- | 78 to 79 |
| D+ | 76 to 77 | D | 72 to 75 | D- | 70 to 71 |
| F | Below 70 | IN | Incomplete | WI | Withdrawn |

Should a student find himself/herself in between two grades, the instructor will note improvement to determine if the higher grade is awarded.

1. Sycamore Education

Sycamore Education will be used for lesson plans, assignments, and grading.

1. This syllabus may be modified without notice. This syllabus does not constitute a contract, but lists instead the reasonable expectations of students of this course.
2. Instructor Information

Rev. Patrick A. McLaughlin

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The instructor is on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), and the instructor may be contacted using [www.sycamore.com](http://www.sycamore.com)